

EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

For immediate release

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State EOC Activated for Hanford Incident

CAMP MURRAY -- The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activated at 5:50 p.m. today after the U.S. Department of Energy declared an alert emergency due to a fire alarm in a non-radioactive portion of the Hanford Site's 400 Area northwest of Richland.

Washington state's present role is to monitor the situation at the USDOE Hanford site, and help Benton, Franklin, Grant and surrounding counties if emergency actions become necessary.

The Governor's Office has been informed of the incident. Gov. Christine Gregoire will be updated as appropriate of emergency activities by emergency operations staff.

State emergency personnel are reporting to the center or standing by in case a response by the state is necessary. Staff from the state departments of Military (Emergency Management), Health, Transportation, and the State Patrol are reporting to the Emergency Operations Center.

The State Enhanced 911 Office in cooperation with local telephone carriers reminds all citizens in the affected area:

1. **To stay off the telephone unless you have a critical need** to make a telephone call.
Remember a FAX or a computer also uses a telephone line and its use may affect your ability to get immediate help in a life-threatening emergency.
2. **DO NOT** call 9-1-1 unless you need an emergency response from police, fire or emergency medical personnel.
3. If you experience other types of problems not related to these emergency services, call the appropriate telephone number for those services.
4. **DO NOT** call 9-1-1 unnecessarily. 9-1-1 lines must be kept open for people who have a true emergency.

5. **If you pick up your telephone to make a call and do not hear dial tone, DO NOT HANG UP.** Simply wait a few seconds, and you will get dial tone and be able to make your call.
6. Do you have an out-of-area contact? In an emergency, local phone lines could be jammed. If you have a friend or relative to call long distance, you should be able to get through. Your family can leave messages for each other and let people know that you are safe.

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